

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Amend the specification as follows.

Page 1, after line 4, add the following new paragraph:

The present application also claims benefit of Japan Application No. 55352/1999, filed 3 March 1999.

Delete the paragraph spanning page 17, line 28 through page 18, line 3, and insert the following new paragraph therefor:

Two types of buffers for use in CRP assay were i) TBS (20 mM Tris-HCl, pH 7.6 containing 0.15 M NaCl and 10 mM CaCl₂) and ii) TBST (TBS buffer containing 0.02% ~~Tween~~ TWEEN 20 (polyoxyethylene(20) sorbitan monolaurate)).

Delete the paragraph spanning lines 4-8 of page 18 and insert the following therefor:

The dissociation enhancement solution was composed of 15 μ M β -NTA, 50 μ M TOPO and 0.1% (w/v) ~~Triton~~ TRITON X-100 (polyoxyethylated octyl phenol) in 0.1 M acetic acid adjusted to pH 3.2 using potassium hydrogen phthalate [Hemmila, I., et al., (1984) Anal. Biochem. 137, 335-343].